


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the above-identified continuation patent application. This is a continuation patent application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/067,922 ("parent application"). Applicants note for the record that the parent application is currently on appeal though Applicants intend to withdraw the Appeal and abandon the parent application in favor of a second continuation patent application upon receipt of an official filing date for this continuation patent application.

Pursuant to this Preliminary Amendment Claims 1-29 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and newly submitted Claims 30-54 are being added to this application. Specifically, newly submitted Claim 30 is identical to Claim 36 of the parent application. Claim 36 of the parent application had been noted to be allowable by the Patent Office. The instant application is being submitted, in part, in order to allow the Patent Office to issue the subject matter that had previously been noted to be allowable in the parent application, i.e., Claim 30. Newly submitted Claims 31-54 depend from Claim 30. Because these claims depend from Claim 30, which had been noted to be allowable by the Patent Office, these claims should also be allowable.

Neither the Preliminary Amendment nor the amended claims add new subject matter. In this regard, support for the claimed subject matter of Claims 30-54 can be found, *inter alia*, on pages 14- 19 of the parent application.

Applicants are also submitting herewith an Information Disclosure Statement that brings to the Patent Office's attention the references from the parent application and some additional references.



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